



# The Anchor

Issue 1

March 2016

Faith, Family, Future

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Girls

To begin with I would like to thank our parents and girls for their enthusiastic support of all our many and varied functions over this term. Girls, your enthusiasm has been so inspiring as you have wholeheartedly entered into the spirit of each and every day here at Maris Stella.

This term has been particularly short, so it has been busy and jam-packed with events. The highlight of the term must surely be the D & D Galas where our girls swam so splendidly and our spectators were relentless in their support. I must mention the amazing cheer that we witnessed from our High School girls - this is always a highlight at the High School D & D Gala, and this year it was outstanding! It makes us all so proud to be part of the Maris Stella family.

There have been many times over this term where our school community has had the opportunity to get together, whether it be at the various sporting fixtures, masses, family braais and other meetings. The teachers and I enjoy these opportunities and appreciate the interest you show in all our many functions.

Our preparation for Easter has been foremost in our minds this term and we now look forward with great joy to the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

We wish all our families a happy and Holy Easter, and may the peace of the risen Christ bless your families and homes.

With warm regards

Joan Schmidt

## Back to School: First Day Fun!

Following tradition, the first day back to school after the long summer holiday is always one filled with fun and excitement! The Public Relations Portfolio Grade 12s were ready with warm welcomes and sweet treats, reminding us of the importance of imagination and courage to live our own adventures!



**2016 LEADERS**

Our 2016 leaders are Megan Montocchio (Head Girl), with Deputies Nicol Randeria and Olivia Keirby-Smith.



**#WATERSHARE**

Maris Stella families once again rose to the challenge when asked to donate water in support of East Coast Radio's #watershare campaign. Through your generosity, we were able to donate approximately 1300 litres of water to help those in need in drought stricken areas in Northern KZN.



**INTER-SCHOOL FRENCH DINNER**

Hilton College recently hosted a dinner for all Matrics who study French in KZN. Une soiree magnifique!



**MIDMAR MILE**

Congratulations to our Midmar Mile swimmers! We are especially proud of Keli Reynolds, Grade 11, who was selected for an elite team of 10 swimmers, and who swam 16 miles to raise funds for the Dusi Umgeni Conservation Trust. Keli raised over R29 000 for this worthy cause. A big well done to our youngest swimmer as well, Madison Stewart in Grade 3!



Please like our Facebook page, *I heart Maris Stella*, for all the latest news and photos from our events.



**MOVIES UNDER THE STARS**

Our dedicated Parents Association hosted a memorable Movie Night on 12 February. The weather played along perfectly, and we were treated to a great movie on a huge screen under the stars. Thank you so much to all our Maris Stella families who supported this event!



**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**

We celebrated such a special Ash Wednesday Mass on 10 February, with the theme "It's not about Me". Thank you to all who joined us. May our Lenten journey nurture our relationship with Christ and empower us to extend His peace and love to others.



**GRADE 6 MARKET DAY**



Much fun was had by all at the Grade 6 Market day last month. From popcorn and pizza, to flowers, homemade lip balm, friendship bracelets and much, much more, these budding entrepreneurs learnt valuable lessons about supply and demand, marketing and how to make a profit!

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

Valentine's Day was celebrated in different ways throughout the school, all of them very spirited and lively! The Prep and High School ladies were treated to some incredible moves by the talented Verb, and the vocal stylings of Djion, while our JP girls had the best time at their teddy bears picnic! Our Pre-school girls dressed up in all their finery, and enjoyed some singing and dancing. We heart Maris Stella!



**TOP TEN GALA**

On the scorchingly hot Friday 19 February, our top 10 swimmers from each grade battled it out for supremacy in the pool, cheered on by friends and family. Well done to each and every one of our swimmers, who performed so well!



**MARIS STELLA MEMORABILIA**

On sale from the Marketing office

- Umbrellas: R100
- Cushions: R150
- Journals: R90
- Mouse pads: R50
- Photo frames: R25
- Keyrings: R10
- Pens: R10
- Stickers: R5



Senior and Junior Victrix Ludorum winners, Kelly Ebing and Cara Message.



### D & D GALAS

On Monday 22 February, the Prep A Team swam to a phenomenal 5th place in the Primary Schools Girls' A League Gala. In 2014, our Prep team won the B League and were promoted to the A League, and last year came 6th, so this is an outstanding result!

On Wednesday 24 February, we hosted the High School Girls' A League Gala at Kings Park. This is always a highly anticipated evening and once again a highly spirited, thoroughly competitive evening was had by all. Our team swam beautifully and placed 6th. To the High School girls and the cheerleaders, your war cry was incredible, and we are so proud of each Maris Stella girl who played their part in this wonderful evening.

On Thursday 25 February the Prep B Team swam to an extraordinary 2nd place at the Primary Schools' E League Gala, losing by just one point! Last year we won the F League Gala, so once again this is also an impressive result!

Thank you to the coaches for your hard work and commitment to the teams, but in particular, a huge thank you to the girls who have been training so hard since 11 January 2016. We are so proud of you!



### ALL THE WAY FROM SWITZERLAND!

This year, we are proud to host our very own Swiss Exchange Student, Caitlyn Zuppinger, who has joined us for Grade 12. Caitlyn shared some insights into her life in Switzerland with us:

Hello to whoever might be reading this! My name is Caitlyn Zuppinger and I have literally grown up with the best of two worlds. I was born in Switzerland, but have the South African passport as well. My father is a typical Swiss man, obsessed with preciseness in anything he does, my mother was born and raised in South Africa which means she can be a bit more easy-going.

Despite always wanting to live the beachy lifestyle, growing up in Switzerland has been a privilege. A good example for this is the freedom: since as young as I can remember, I've been popping down to the store, 5 minutes away from our house, all by myself to grab the usual necessities or occasionally some ice cream. When I turned 11 I began my High School in a neighboring town, where I either travelled by bike, in summer, or via public transport, in winter.

The schooling is also very different to here. Switzerland prides itself in giving the students a broad general knowledge. We get put into slots at the end of our 5 year primary education, and there are different types of high schools: Real, Sek and Bez. Bez is the academic one while in Real and Sek it's more about practical knowledge. From here we continue for 4 years and afterwards we get the choice to decide what we want for our future.

Most students will do an apprenticeship (3-4 years) but others will decide that they want a matric. Even with the matric there are options. You can either do the specialized matric (3 years), with which you can go on to college. The other option, which is the one I'm doing at the moment, is the 4 year more academic route, after which you can go on to university. Now since most Swiss students graduate High School at 15 going on 16 we only get out matric at 20. All schools are co-ed and there are no uniforms although in High School I did have a dress code. Another thing that makes a huge difference is that for the matric you have 13 subjects. The idea behind it is that afterwards you can go study whatever you want, since you do have all the subjects.



I feel extremely privileged to have this opportunity to gather experience at Maris Stella. It's such a beautiful school, filled with friendly, hospitable and genuine people. If you have a problem you always have someone you can turn to and the staff and pupils are great fun to be around and I firmly believe that no matter where you live, what makes your life great is the people that you surround yourself with.